

For Immediate Release

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St. Vincent Secures State Grant for Surgical Suite Medical Equipment

LEADVILLE, COLO. (September 29, 2020) – St. Vincent General Hospital District (SVGHD) was awarded a \$535,297 grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF). The grant will be used to purchase large equipment items for the surgical suite in the organization’s new hospital, which is currently under construction and set to open in early 2021.

“We are incredibly grateful for DOLA’s support and partnership in opening a surgical suite in Leadville. Patients who would otherwise travel to regional and Front Range hospitals can receive many surgical services locally,” says Aleta Bezzic, SVGHD board chair. “The surgical suite and its state-of-the-art equipment will greatly increase access to care and eliminate the hardship of travel for patients and their families during a vulnerable time.”

The equipment that will be purchased with the DOLA grant includes surgical tables, booms for gases and medical equipment, sterilizing equipment, laparoscopic equipment, surgical lights and more. Surgeries and procedures that will be made possible as a result of the equipment obtained through this grant range from general surgery to colonoscopy, orthopedic surgery to pain management.

Hospital administration is in negotiations with several physicians and surgeons to provide the new surgery services. In 2019, the SVGHD finance department began allocating money for medical equipment for the new hospital. Currently, that fund has reached more than \$500,000, with an anticipated budget of \$1.2 million to purchase all the necessary medical equipment for the new facility.

“This grant brings us very close to the goal we set for new equipment purchases and our staff is so appreciative,” says Corbin Logan, interim CEO. “With this grant, DOLA has added to the district’s solvency. Though the hospital’s financials are strong, any equipment that can be purchased outright, and not financed, adds to our sustainability as a district.”

In a letter from DOLA, executive director Rick Garcia explained, “Your project was reviewed based on a variety of factors such as its connection to energy impact, degree of need, measurable outcomes,



amount of request, relationship to community goals, level of local match and community support, management capacity and readiness to go. Competition for these limited funds was intense, and funding decisions were considered carefully.”

Karen Onderdonk, chief branding officer, is the grant writer for SVGHD. For inquiries related to this announcement, she may be reached at 719-486-7135.

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About DOLA

The Department of Local Affairs is primary point of contact where local communities work in partnership with the state. Its mission is: Strengthening Colorado Communities. DOLA provides technical and financial assistance to communities across the state and has four program divisions: The Board of Assessment Appeals, the Division of Housing, the Division of Local Government and the Division of Property Taxation. All department services provide support to local communities and help bolster capacity.

The program, created by the legislature in 1977, assists political subdivisions socially and/or economically impacted by the development, processing or energy conversion of minerals and mineral fuels. Funds come from the state severance tax on energy and mineral production and from a portion of the state's share of royalties paid to the federal government for mining and drilling of minerals and mineral fuels on federally owned land.

About St. Vincent Health

At 10,152 feet elevation in Colorado’s Rocky Mountains, St. Vincent Health serves the residents and visitors of Lake County and North America’s highest city of Leadville. Established in 1879 by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, the hospital has been in continuous operation since first providing care for the hardscrabble miners of early settlement days. Continuing the tradition of caring, the St. Vincent General Hospital District is currently constructing a new state-of-the-art hospital to open in early 2021. www.StVincent.Health